

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /084 W

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R 161506Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8539

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6353

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO

SUBJECT: DEMOCRATIC UNIONS OPPOSE INTERSINDICAL

REFS: (A) LISBON 5831 (DTG 261135Z AUG 76), (B) LISBON 6122  
(DTG 081210Z SEP 76)

SUMMARY: DEMOCRATIC UNIONS MEETING IN COIMBRA  
REASSERTED THEIR INTENTION TO ORGANIZE A NATIONAL  
LABOR CONGRESS OF ALL UNIONS. THEY REJECTED AS  
"DIVISIONIST" INTERSINDICAL'S PLANS TO ORGANIZE A  
CONGRESS ON ITS OWN. THE DEMOCRATIC UNIONS ARE  
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MAKING HEADWAY IN ESTABLISHING A RESPECTABLE LABOR

IMAGE INDEPENDENT OF COMMUNIST CONTROL. END SUMMARY.

1. FIFTY-ONE DEMOCRATIC UNIONS REAFFIRMED THEIR OPPOSITION TO INTERSINDICAL DURING A MEETING IN COIMBRA SEPT 13-14. THE MEETING FOLLOWED SIMILAR ONE HELD AUGUST 23-24 WHEN 39 UNIONS WERE REPRESENTED (REF A).

2. THE MAJOR RESOLUTION PASSED BY MEETING:

-- ASSERTED DEMOCRATIC UNIONS WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN OR HELP TO ORGANIZE A NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS SPONSORED SOLELY BY INTERSINDICAL.

-- REJECTED "DIVISIONIST" TACTICS OF INTERSINDICAL.

-- REAFFIRMED THEIR DECISION TO WORK FOR CREATION OF A SINGLE NATIONAL LABOR CONFEDERATION, DEMOCRATIC AND INDEPENDENT, CONTROLLED BY WORKERS AND REPRESENTING THEIR INTERESTS.

-- DECIDED THAT THEIR ORGANIZING COMMISSION FOR THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF ALL UNIONS SHOULD NOT BE DOMINATED BY ANY SINGLE POLITICAL OR UNION LINE AND THAT IT BE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL TENDENCIES IN PORTUGUESE LABOR.

-- DECLARED THAT THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR ITS CONGRESS, AS WELL AS THE CONGRESS ITSELF, SHOULD BE OPEN TO ALL NEWS MEDIA.

-- REQUIRED THAT THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF ALL UNIONS BE SCHEDULED WITH SUFFICIENT LEAD TIME SO THAT WORKERS CAN PREVIOUSLY EXPRESS OPINIONS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL ON ALL ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

3. FINAL RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 29 UNIONS IN FAVOR, 3 OPPOSED, AND 17 ABSTAINING. VOTE DEMONSTRATES DIVERSITY OF OPINION REPRESENTED BY DEMOCRATIC UNIONS. ON ONE OCCASION A MRPP SPONSORED RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED. SOCIALIST UNIONS DIVIDED ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES.

4. OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED AT MEETING INCLUDED THE PROPOSED STATUTES FOR THE LABOR CONGRESS AND FOR THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATION, TRAVEL SUBSIDIES FOR DELEGATES  
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TO FUTURE DEMOCRATIC UNION MEETINGS, AND CREATION OF AN INFORMATION BULLETIN. MOTIONS WERE PASSED LAMENTING THE DEATHS OF MAO TSE-TUNG AND LUIS FIGUEIRAO OF THE CHILEAN CUT.

5. COMMENT: IN SUMMARY, THE POSITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC UNIONS IS THAT THE PORTUGUESE LABOR MOVEMENT IS ALREADY DIVIDED, AND HAS BEEN EVER SINCE THE POLITICAL

STRUGGLE OVER IMPOSED LABOR UNITY IN EARLY 1975.  
THE DEMOCRATIC UNIONS THUS ASSERT THAT ONLY A  
NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS OF ALL UNIONS, IN WHICH  
INTERSINDICAL AND THE NON-AFFILIATED  
UNIONS MEET ON A BASIS OF EQUALITY, CAN CREATE  
A NEW, TRULY REPRESENTATIVE UNIFIED CONFEDERATION.

6. THE POSITION ARGUED BY INTERSINDICAL IS THAT  
LABOR UNITY ALREADY EXISTS, BOTH LEGALLY AND IN  
PRACTICE. THOSE NON-AFFILIATED UNIONS OPPOSING  
INTERSINDICAL'S POLICIES THUS SHOULD DO SO WITHIN  
THE STRUCTURE AND THE RULES OF THE CONFEDERATION.  
PREPARATORY SESSIONS FOR THE INTERSINDICAL SPONSORED  
LABOR CONGRESS SHOULD BE CLOSED TO THE MEDIA AND ONLY  
THE "PROGRESSIVE PRESS" SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO  
ATTEND THE CONGRESS ITSELF.

7. THE LABOR CONFRONTATION CONTINUES TO ATTRACT  
INCREASING PUBLIC ATTENTION WITH WIDESPREAD PRESS  
AND TV COVERAGE. THE DEMOCRATIC UNIONS ARE HOLDING  
THEIR GROUND IN PUBLIC DEBATES AGAINST INTERSINDICAL'S  
ATTEMPTS TO CONFUSE THE ISSUES. THE WILLINGNESS OF  
THE DEMOCRATIC UNIONS TO OPEN THEIR MEETINGS, AND  
TO SEEK EXPOSURE, WARTS AND ALL, IS SUCCEEDING IN  
ESTABLISHING FOR THEM FOR THE FIRST TIME AN IMAGE  
OF A POLITICALLY RESPECTABLE, NON-COMMUNIST LABOR GROUPING  
POTENTIALLY CAPABLE OF CONFRONTING INTERSINDICAL.

8. THE ISSUES AT STAKE ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT  
THAN JUST CONTROL OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT. THE  
SOCIALISTS HOPE TO IMPLEMENT THEIR PLANS FOR  
ECONOMIC RECOVERY WITHOUT HAVING TO FACE THE  
OPPOSITION OF A HOSTILE LABOR MOVEMENT. THE PCP,  
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ON THE OTHER HAND, IS NOT ABOUT TO YIELD ITS CONTROL  
OVER INTERSINDICAL. THIS CONFRONTATION IS CLEARLY  
ILLUSTRATED BY THE CURRENT IMPASSE BETWEEN THE TWO  
PARTIES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE LABOR UNIONS OVER THE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS.  
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## Message Attributes

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